

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for considering the present application. In the Office Action dated July 31, 2002, claims 1-41 are pending in the application. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for a reconsideration.

Claims 23-36 stand objected to for an informality. Applicants have amended claim 23 above to recite "A method for forming an invention disclosure" rather than changing the preamble of claims 24-36. Applicants respectfully believe this objection is overcome.

Claims 1-3, 7, 9, 17-18, 21-22, 37-38, and 41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe* (6,157,947). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to a method of forming an invention disclosure online. Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the invention disclosure has selected information portions and that after each of the plurality of selected information portions are entered, each of them are stored in a central storage location. Claim 17 is a system claim corresponding to that of claim 1. Claim 23 is similar to claims 1 and 17 with the addition of providing classification information and notifying an evaluator of the classification information. Claim 37 is a method that allows identification information to be entered into the system and user information is obtained from a central directory system automatically. It should be noted that information portion does not necessarily mean e.g., each digit of an address but may include several pieces of information such as one part of the several parts of a typical disclosure.

The *Watanabe* reference is a method and apparatus for distributing intellectual property. The system is a system that is used to form an information specification by people in various locations around the world. Various pieces of information may be stored to the system. Examples of such pieces are described in Col. 5, beginning on line 34. No real detail is given in the *Watanabe* system as to how the information is provided to the system. It appears from the description that whole documents are uploaded to such a system. The present invention is

suitable for invention disclosures in which a plurality of selected information is input. Examples of such information are identifying information such as inventorship, titles, and various description portions. The present invention is a web-based system that allows storage after each portion of the invention disclosure is provided. Therefore, if the web connection is discontinued or interrupted, the information portion will not be lost and the information entry process can be resumed at any time. Other examples of intellectual property are described beginning in Col. 8, line 29, and continue for several pages including the tables. Applicants can find no teaching or suggestion in this application for the proposition of saving the selected information from an invention disclosure after each portion is entered. Applicants therefore respectfully request the reconsideration of this rejection.

With respect to claim 37, applicants have reviewed the *Watanabe* reference and can find no teaching or suggestion for a user entering identification information to retrieve user information based on the identification information to create at least a portion of the invention disclosure. In general, such systems appear to be systems by which documents are moved rather than a document forming system such as that of the present invention. The goals of document forming are quite a bit different than the goals of document moving. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of these claims since the limitations in the claims are not taught or suggested by the *Watanabe* reference.

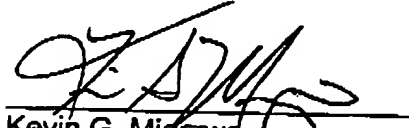
Claims 4-6, 8, 10-15, 19-20, 23-35, and 39-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Watanabe* in view of *Schneider* (5,987,464). The applicants note the several deficiencies of *Watanabe* described above. The *Schneider* reference is a method and system for periodically updating data records having an expiry time. No teaching or suggestion is provided in the *Schneider* reference for forming an invention disclosure in an online-type system. Therefore, because *Schneider* does not overcome the deficiencies of the *Watanabe* reference described above, applicants respectfully request the Examiner for reconsideration of this rejection as well.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all objections and rejections are now overcome. Applicants have added no

new material to the application by these amendments. The application is now in condition for allowance and expeditious notice thereof is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments which would place the application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Please charge any fees required in the filing of this amendment to deposit account 06-1510.

Respectfully submitted,


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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. (Amended) A method of forming an invention disclosure comprises the steps of:

forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information portions into a web-based system;

[as] after each of the plurality of selected information portions are [is] entered, storing each of the selected information portions in a central storage location; and

allowing access to various users for reviewing the [information] invention disclosure.

17. (Amended) An invention disclosure system comprising:

a user computer;

a server;

a database coupled to the server;

said server providing user screens to said users to prompt said users to provide a plurality of disclosure information to said server, receiving the plurality of disclosure information from said users, storing information in said database after each of the plurality of disclosure information is entered, and allowing access to said disclosure after storing the plurality of disclosure information [on] within said database.

23. (Amended) [An] A method of forming an invention disclosure [submission system] comprising:

forming an invention disclosure online by entering a plurality of selected information into a web-based system;

[as] after each of the plurality of selected information is entered, storing each of the plurality of selected [the] information in a central storage location;

allowing access to various users to access the information;

prompting the user for classification information;
notifying an evaluator in response to the classification information;
and
prompting an evaluation from the evaluator.